

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 00678

FOR NASA: TERRELL, ZIMMERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN, PORG, MOPS, AMGT

SUBJECT: UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMM-
ITTEE: REMOTE SENSING, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1978

1. SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY SESSION FEBRUARY 22 ONREMOTE SEN-
SING MANY DELEGATIONS DENIED UTILITY OF SOVIET PROPOSED 50
METER RESOLUTION LEVEL AS BASIS FOR CONTROLLING DISSEMINA-
TION OF REMOTELY SENSED DATA. USSR AND EE'S STUCK TO 50
METER RESOLUTION CUT-OFF FOR CONTROLS. FRENCH SOFTENED
POSITION CONSIDERABLY. NEAR CONSENSUS EXISTS FOR A LOW
THRESHOLD LEVEL OF DATA BELOW WHICH CONTROLS ON DISSEMINA-
TION TO THIRD STATES APPROPRIATE, BUT NATURE AND LEVEL OF
CONTROL; CRITERION NOT CLEAR. USSR AND US EXCHANGED VIEWS
ON DISSEMINATION QUESTION AND MANY ALLIES AND FRIENDLY
COUNTRIES STRONGLY ENDORSED OPEN DISSEMINATION. NO PRO-
BLEMS EXPECTED FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE LANDSAT DATA.

2. DETAILS: CHILEAN DEL MADE COMPETENT DETAILED TECHNICAL
PRESENTATION ON REMOTE SENSING, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION
OF SPATIAL RESOLUTION. HE STATED THAT THE CONTROL OVER
DATA DISSEMINATION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT
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A SENSED STATE CAN CONTROL ACCESS TO GROUND-TRUTH WITHOUT
WHICH THE SPACE DATA IS NOT COMPLETELY USEFUL. CHILEAN DEL
DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT HIGH RESOLUTION DATA SHOULD BE
SUBJECT TO REGULATION.

3. BELGIAN DEL MADE COMMENDABLE TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ON
QUESTION OF SPATIAL RESOLUTION.

4. FRENCH DEL, IN SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT, SAID THAT GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF DATA IS THE BEST GUARANTEE AGAINST DETRIMENTAL USE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SENSED STATE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO DATA BEFORE IT IS DISSEMINATED TO THIRD COUNTRIES. STATE'S CONTROL; OVER GROUND RUTH IS ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGN INTERESTS. HOWEVER MADE BRIEF REMINDER SUPPORTING EARLIER FRENCH POSITION ON NEED FOR PRIOR CONSENT FOR DISSEMINATION OF ANALYZED INFORMATION BASED ON RAW DATA OF 10 METERS RESOLUTION OR FINER.

5. AUSTRIAN DEL SAW NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF DATA AND STATED OPPOSITION TO LIMITS ON DATA DISSEMINATION. HE DISCUSSED SPATIAL RESOLUTION AND NOTED THAT SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADARS PRESENT SPECIAL DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS. STATED THAT THEY FAVOR A GLOBAL OPERATIONAL REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM ON A BASIS SIMILAR TO GARP.

6. AUSTRALIAN DEL SUPPORTED OPEN DATA DISSEMINATION NOTING THAT LIMITATIONS WOULD CREATE IMBALANCES IN DATA FLOW TO DISADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE REMARKED THAT FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS A RESOLUTION OF 10 METERS MIGHT BE NEEDED WHILE FOR OTHERS RESOLUTION OF 30 METERS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, IN ANY CASE, RESOLUTION CRITERION IS INAPPROPRIATE AS BASIS FOR LIMITATIONS.
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7. ITALIAN DEL RECITED EXPERIENCE WITH LANDSAT AND STATED SUPPORT FOR OPEN DATA DISSEMINATION.

8. UK DEL CONCLUDED THAT SPATIAL RESOLUTION IS NOT A SIMPLE CRITERION. NOTED SPECIAL CASE OF SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR. SAW NO NEED TO CLASSIFY DATA AND SUPPORTED OPEN DISSEMINATION.

9. GDR DEL FULLY SUPPORTED SOVIET POSITION ON CONTROL OF DATA DISSEMINATION; RESTATED SOVIET POSITION ON RESOLUTION CUT-OFF AT 50 METERS PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOLUTION OR 25 (SIC) METERS INSTANTANEOUS FIELD OF VIEW. REEMPHASIZED THAT CURRENT AND PROJECTED LANDSAT SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY SOV PROPOSED CUTOFF.

10. CANADIAN DEL ASSERTED NEED TO CONSIDER THE TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY RESTRICTIONS ON DATA DISSEMINATION. FAVORED OPEN DISSEMINATION AND EMPHASIZED THAT STATES MUST HAVE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO DATA CONCERNING ITS OWN TERRITORY.

11. SOV DEL MADE LENGTHY INTERVENTION ATTEMPTION TO CLARIFY POSITION ON DISSEMINATION AND USE OF DATA. USSR ARGUED CONTROL OVER THE DATA IN BOTH SOVIET CASE AND LANDSAT LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE LAUNCHING STATE. US CAN TURN OFF LANDSAT DIRECT TRANSMISSION ANYTIME.

12. SOV DEL ANALYZED ROLE OF DATA CONTROLLER WITH: DOCTOR WHO IS NOT FREE TO GIVE TO THIRD PARTY INFORMATION DETRIMENTAL TO THE PATIENT; LAWYER WHO IS NOT FREE TO GIVE TO THIRD PARTY INFO DETRIMENTAL TO CLIENT; AND ENGINEER EMPLOYEE WHO INVENTS BUT IS NOT FREE TO GIVE HIS INVENTION AWAY TO ANOTHER FIRM. COMMENT: THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THESE ANALOGIES WERE APPEALING TO A

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NUMBER OF DELS INSPITE OF LATER US REFUTATION.

13. SOV DEL WENT ON TO CITE EXISTENCE OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS THAT RESTRICT FLOW OF INFO -- EXAMPLE GIVEN WAS US-MEXICAN AGREEMENT ON AMATEUR RADIO THAT ALLOWS PERSONS TO TRANSMIT ONLY TECHNICAL INFO.

14. IN SUPPORT OF HIS CONTENTION THAT ANALYZED INFO SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED WITHOUT CONSENT OF SENSED COUNTRY, SOV DEL NOTED FORECAST BY US EXPERT OF USSR CEREAL CROP THAT WAS IN ERROR. THIS EVOKED, SAID HE, CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM BY CEREAL TRADERS.

15. SOV DEL SAID HIGH RESOLUTION DATA COULD REVEAL ITEMS OF MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO A STATE'S DEFENCE CAPABILITY. HE REFERRED TO 14 APRIL 1977

"AERO-SPACE BULLETIN" (?) AND A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT IN WHICH IT IS ALLEGED THAT A US MILITARY EXPERT SAID 30 METER RESOLUTION IS CERTAINLY ADEQUATE TO IDENTIFY IMPORTANT MILITARY FEATURES. SOVS AGREED THAT SPATIAL RESOLUTION AND TEMPORAL FREQUENCY BOTH IMPORTANT DATA PARAMETERS BUT ASSERTED THAT SPATIAL

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RESOLUTION AND TEMPORAL FREQUENCY BOTH IMPORTANT DATA PARAMETERS BUT ASSERTED THAT SPATIAL RESOLUTION IS NOT IMPORTANT FROM MILITARY VIEWPOINT. SOV DEL ALSO MADE VAGUE REFERENCE TO RADAR LOCATORS ON BOARD SEASAT-A AS BEING OF MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE AND TREATED IN SAME AEROSPACE BULLETIN ARTICLE.

16. IF ANYONE WERE TO DISSEMINATE ANALYZED INFO DERIVED FROM SATELLITE DATA CONCERNING THE SOVIET UNION, SOV DEL STATED THAT USSR WOULD OBJECT IN A MOST SERIOUS MANNER.

17. BRAZILIAN DEL IN BRIEF STATEMENT NOTED THAT SPATIAL RESOLUTION WOULD NOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR CONTROLLING DISSEMINATION. REITERATED REQUIREMENT THAT SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF STATES BE PRESERVED.

18. US COMMENDED EXCELLENT STATEMENTS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF REMOTE SENSING DONE BY USSR (PREVIOUS SESSION), CANADA, CHILE, BELGIUM. AGREED WITH THE WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT RESOLUTION IS NOT APPROPRIATE CRITERION FOR CONTROL OF DATA DISSEMINATION. VERY PLEASED TO NOTE THE IMPORTANT REVISIONS OF VIEWS ON THIS TOPIC BY CERTAIN DELEGATIONS (MOST NOTABLY FRANCE) FOLLOWING THEIR CAREFUL STUDY OF THE MATTER AND NOTED THAT SC IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL DELEGATIONS.

19. ROLE OF UN - IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE CENTRES AT FAO AND CNRET AND TO KEEP FULL AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF SYSTEM DEVELOPMENTS OPERATING - A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE. WE CONCUR WITH THE VIEW OF CANADA AND OTHERS THAT THE UN SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OR UNDERTAKING ANY OPERATIONAL

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COORDINATING ROLE. ENCOURAGING AND FACILITATING INFORMATION EXCHANGE HAS BEEN AND WILL BE IMPORTANT ROLE FOR UN.

20. US DEL NOTED THAT, IN ABSTRACT, (WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SOV FILM SYSTEM) THE NOTIONS SUGGESTED BY SOME STATES THAT DATA WILL ONLY BE COLLECTED WHEN REQUESTED IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND TROUBLEMSOME APPROACH. THERE IS NO ELEMENT OF DENIAL OF ACCESS TO ANYONE IN THE LANDSAT SYSTEM. ALL DATA COLLECTED ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL STATES WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO ONE STATE.

21. RESPONDED TO USSR DOCTOR-PATIENT ANALOGY BY NOTING THAT SOV DEL MISSES THE POINT. LANDSAT DATA IS NOT A D-AGNOSIS, IT IS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL. IF SENSING STATES ARE DOCTORS ARE THEY NOT DUTY BOUND TO MAKE KNOWN THIS MARVELOUS NEW TOOL FOR TREATMENT OF THE ILLS OF EARTH AND BETTER MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES? ACKNOWLEDGED THE ENGINEER/ PATENT RIGHTS ANALOGY WAS CLOSER TO THE MARK BUT NOTED THAT A PATENT, LIKE ANALYZED DATA, IS AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND WE KNOW OF NO LAW THAT REQUIRES A PATENT HOLDER TO GET APPROVAL IN ADVANCE FROM A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO PRACTICE HIS PATENT.

22. NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS US STUDIES OF CEREAL GRAINS IN THE USSR BY SATELLITES HAS BEEN DONE ON BASIS OF COOPERATIVE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM. ALSO NOTED THAT SOV DEL POINT ON MILITARY UTILITY OF DATA APPLIES TO METEOROLOGY, KNOWLEDGE OF OCEAN CURRENTS, KNOWLEDGE OF GEOGRAPHY , ETC. BUT WE CANNOT SUPPRESSSCIENTIFIC INFO BECAUSE IT MIGHT IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCE HAVE A MILITARY UTILITY.

23. INDIAN DEL NOTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING SOME EXPER-IMENTS WITH RESOLUTION IMAGERY DEGRADED TO VARIOUS EXTENTS BY VARIOUS MEANS. STUDY AIMED AT ESTABLISHING

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CRITERION RELEVANT TO QUALITY OF IMAGE THAT MIGHT ALSO BE USED AS BASIS FOR CONTROL.

24. INDIAN DEL STATED THAT FOR SOME DETAILED DATA, BY A CRITERION NOT YET DEFINED, THE SENSED STATE MUST BE CONSULTED PRIOR TO DISSEMINATION TO THIRD PARTIES.

25. EGYPTIAN DEL CALLED FOR USING DATA FOR BENEFIT OF MANKIND BUT THAT DISSEMINATION TO THIRD STATES SHOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF SENSED STATE. REITERATED TRADITIONAL LINE THAT PRIOR CONSENT IS NEEDED BEFORE REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERTAKEN (ONLY DELEGATION STILL ON THAT LINE).

26. INDONESIAN DEL CALLED FOR FORMULATION OF NEW RULES TO INSURE THAT REMOTE SENSING DOES NOT INFRINGE ON THE MILITARY SECURITY OF A STATE NOR WORK TO ITS DISADVANTAGE. ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF SENSED STATE MUST BE ASSURED.

27. NIGERIAN DEL MADE VEILED REFERENCE TO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH HE SAID IS BLOCKING THE DEVELOPMENT OF REMOTE SENSING IN AFRICA. NO CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLANATION WAS FORTHCOMING. MADE NO STATEMENT ON DISSEMINATION QUESTION. (FOLLOW-UP WITH NIGERIAN WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL).

28. COMMENT: THERE IS A CONTINUING WEAKENING OF SUPPORT FOR PRIOR CONSENT TO DISSEMINATION EXCEPT AT LEVELS OF HIGH RESOLUTION, WHERE MOST STATES FEEL VISCERALLY THAT SOME KIND OF CONTROLS MAY BE NEEDED. HAVING TOSSED OUT RESOLUTION AS APPROPRIATE CRITERION IT BECOMES TOUGH TO DEFINE A TECHNICAL THRESHHOLD. IN TIME, IT IS LIKELY PENDULIUM WILL SWING BACK ON THIS ISSUE TO RESOLUTION AND A CUT-OFF IS THEN LIKELY TO GAIN SUPPORT IN THE 10 TO 20 METER REGION. AT THAT TIME, US WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT IT WISHES TO ACCEPT CONSENT REGIME FOR SUCH DATA. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON CONTROL ISSUE POSSIBLE AT THIS SESSION AND PROBABLY NOT WITHIN NEXT TWO YEARS. THERE WILL BE EXPLICIT REFERENCE IN S AND TSC REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS OF DATA DISSEMINATION FOR ALL DATA COLLECTED BY US LANDSAT SYSTEM, INCLUDING LANDSAT D SPACECRAFT.
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